

have lighted a fire upon the end of the promontory,

Here, that was impossible.

No light shone out before the return of dawn, no report broke the silence of the night, no ship came in sight of the island.

The men began to wonder whether they had not been mistaken, if they had not taken for the sound of cannon what might only have been the roar of some distant storm.

"No, no," Fritz insisted, "we were not mistaken!"

It really was a cannon firing out there in the north, a good long way away."

"Pm sure of it," the boatswain replied.

" But why should they be firing guns ?
James

Wolston urged.

"Either in salute or in self-defence," Fritz answered.

"Perhaps some savages have landed on the island and made an attack," Frank suggested.

"Anyhow," the boatswain answered, "it wasn't savages who fired those guns."

" So the island would be inhabited by Americans, or Europeans ? " James enquired.

" Well, to begin with, is it only an island ? "

- Captain Gould replied, " How do we know what is beyond this cliff ? Are we perhaps upon some very large island- "

/"A very large island in this part of the
Pacific ? "
; Frite rejoined. "'Which one? I
don't see—"